Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

still more the reverence of every Irishman for the most ancient reliques of his country, are in some degree involved. These remains of other times almost any where else, would not to this day have remained in obscurity.

It will therefore give satisfaction to announce that the work has excited a strong interest throughout the united kingdom, particularly in Great Britain, where the subscription is receiving warm encouragement.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

AS the drill culture of Potatoes has for several years past been gaining ground in this country, and the Landholders are now generally convinced of its superiority over the lazy-bed mode, both as to produce and expense, I was surprized to see in No. 6, of the Magazine, a statement said to be taken from Rawson's Survey of Kildare, representing the lazy-bed way as most profitable.

I have looked into the extract as it is given in the Magazine for September, and find the statement is fairly made on one acre in the drill or rather bank mode, and one acre in the lazy-bed way; in the first there appears a profit of £21 1 1, and in the latter only £1 6 8. How the Gentleman from Castle-Upton could make such a mistake as to imagine that the last statement was for eight acres, when the author of the work expressly says he has given it for one acre only, I am at a loss to conjecture. Surely no person who is acquainted with the expense of planting Potatoes with the spade, could think that eight acres could be done in that way, at the small expense of £2 3 4 (very little more than five shillings per acre) or that the seed used would amount to no more than £2 0 0 (not five bushels to the acre). The only article of expense that seems extravagant is the dung—320 loads to an acre is certainly a greater quantity than we are in the habit of applying in this country, but if only one half of the dung was to be taken into the statement, it would still leave a balance of £12 7 9 in favour of the bank culture, a sum sufficiently great to induce any farmer to give it a fair trial.

As to the advice given the Editor of rejecting all anonymous communications, he will know what value to set upon it. If Magazines and such other periodical works in this country, at least, were to receive nothing but what had signatures, I am afraid their numbers would be very scantily supplied with materials for the instruction or amusement of the public.

I have always thought that the value of such communications ought to be estimated by the importance of the subject and the soundness of the reasoning employed, and not the name of the author.

The Farmer's Magazine, published in Edinburgh, is principally composed of anonymous pieces, and yet it is held in great estimation, and is judged to have materially served the cause of Agriculture; having such a precedent I must beg leave to subscribe myself

March 1, 1809. A FARMER.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I LATELY observed a proposal, made by a Correspondent to one of the London Magazines, that all persons who were acquainted with successful cases of the application of any of the popular remedies used through the country, should make them known to the public, with the proper vouchers through the medium of some of the periodical publications: I also find that it has been adopted and acted upon, and that several cases of common remedies have been already published. Such a plan I think would be equally useful here, and therefore I take the liberty of recommending to you, to make known your wish to receive communications of this nature. I would also go farther, and invite communications not only of cases in which they have succeeded, but also where they have failed. The adage,

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum,

is no where so applicable as in the case of experimental medicine, in which the failure or success of a remedy depends as much on the mode and circumstances of the application as its intrinsic qualities. If you accede to this hint, I doubt not, but that it will be the means of furnishing the public with some new and interesting

information on a subject on which all are concerned, the preservation and restoration of health. I am Sir

Yours, OBSOLETUS.

March 1st, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PERMIT me to add a few cursory observations to an interesting Paper in your last Month's Magazine, on that staple article of the Irish export trade, butter. I have no doubt of the success which would attend a trial of Dr. Anderson's receipt, and I truly hope that it may become general. The ordinary process at present in use in this country, in making butter, is, after the parts which constitute that delightful aliment have been separated from the milk, to wash the mass well in cold water, and when the due quantity of salt is worked into it, lay it by for use. I have lately (indeed by accident) been informed of another method which is practised in some parts of the counties of Wexford, and Carlow, and I hear has been attended with considerable success.

The manner is very simple, and it strikes me too as extremely probable that it was the ancient way of treating it. The butter, on taking it out of the churn, is laid on a flat stone or marble slab, and worked or beat very well until the whole of the milk is supposed to have escaped; the salt is then used and the butter is fit for immediate use or keeping, and if I am correctly informed, resists rancidity much longer than when worked in the usual way with water. Perhaps the water being a much finer fluid, penetrating into the porous parts of the butter, and it being difficult to expel it altogether, causes the disagreeable effect mentioned, but this is mere speculation.

The county Carlow butter has long been esteemed in the sister country, and bears a much higher price in its metropolis than any other Irish, the Cork rose not excepted, and such is the opinion that they entertain of its peculiar goodness, and the high name it has acquired, that the Merchants in the neighbouring seaports find it their interest to brand all their prime butter casks with the name, the consequence is that more is sold in London as Carlow, than is made in the county.

The great and almost only cause of the indifferent quality of a large portion of this country butter is, I am persuaded, owing to the poverty of the dairy-men. Often have I entered the peasant's wretched cabin, and beheld the children, pigs, poultry, &c. scrambling promiscuously on the ground, the family's lowly bed of straw in one corner, while their vessels of milk placed on a few sticks set up in the ground, and a cross one or two at the top, lay in another, and the house so filled with smoke as almost to threaten suffocation.

The few cows also which they possess are generally so very limited, that to have a sufficient quantity o cream for a churning, they hold it over so long, and the wooden keaves, being I am afraid seldom well scalded, it acquires in addition to the smoky, a scarcely less disagreeable taste.

I must mention a practice resorted to here by the butter merchants, to prevent the *market prices* rising too rapidly; it cannot be condemned too severely. I am not quite certain as to its being confined to this place alone, but I trust it is the case.

A bribe, or *whisper* as it is called, of so much a cask, is given; it generally runs from 6 to 12s. and the seller of the butter, whether the cask be large or otherwise, obtains it.

This as I before mentioned, keeps down the *nominal* price here, and the *real* one in the country towns, that look to this place, as a mart for their butter. But the practice leaves such a glaring temptation open to the farmer's sons, or servants, *as the whisper is so easily reduced*, not taking to account (as I imagine) the evident injustice of the custom, that it ought to be discouraged as much as possible. RECLUSE.

Waterford, March 19, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE CHARACTER OF THE FRENCH LADIES.... BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO LIVED IN FRANCE SEVERAL YEARS, AND ON WHOSE ARM THE EMPRESS HERSELF SOMETIMES DEIGNED TO LEAN.

WELL did Sterne say, that nothing here was *salique* but the government, for the Ladies of France to